

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 96-160-S - ORDER NO. 2003-590

OCTOBER 1, 2003

IN RE: Petition of Midlands Utility, Inc. for Approval	)	ORDER APPROVING
for the Renewal of a Wholesale Wastewater	)	RENEWAL OF
Agreement Between Midlands and the City of	)	AGREEMENT
Orangeburg DPU for Wastewater Treatment	)	
from the Northwood Estates Subdivision.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition of Midlands Utility, Inc. (Midlands or the Company) for Commission approval of the renewal of a Wholesale Wastewater Agreement (the Agreement) between Midlands and the City of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities for the Northwood Estates Subdivision in Orangeburg County. The original petition was approved in Docket No. 96-160-S, Order No. 97-517, dated June 17, 1997.

The Commission's Executive Director directed the Company to publish a Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas. The Company filed an affidavit showing that it had followed the instructions of the Executive Director. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were received.

The renewal agreement increases the Commodity Charge from \$1.12 per 100 cu. ft. per month (\$1.50/1000 gallons) to \$1.20 per 100 cu.ft. per month (\$1.60/1,000 gallons). The Company is treating this cost as an expense. The increased amount will not be passed through to the ratepayers at this time. Midlands is charging its currently approved rates.

A letter from the City of Orangeburg's Wastewater Division indicates that its rates are reviewed and occasionally adjusted by the Orangeburg City Council to reflect the actual costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the system, although the City would not reveal its actual increased costs.

Staff recommends approval of the renewal of the Agreement with the increased cost as being in the public interest. Again, the added cost is not being billed to the ratepayers of the Company. Upon a full examination of the submittals in this Docket, we agree with the Staff and approve renewal of the Agreement, with the increase in costs. These are stated to be actual costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the system. We agree that this approval is in the public interest, especially since this increase is not being passed on to the ratepayer at this time.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Mignon L. Clyburn  
Chairman

ATTEST:



Gary E. Walsh  
Executive Director

(SEAL)